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promote the welfare and security of the empire, and to become thoroughly identified with our fellow-subjects in interests and affection, are objects as precious in our eyes, upon every consideration of property, principle, and moral duty, as in those of any other description of the inhabitants of these realms.

" If, in thus humbly submitting our depressed condition and our earnest hopes to the gracious consideration of your Royal Highness, we would dwell upon the great numbers and the property of the Roman Catholics of Ireland—already so considerable, and so rapidly increasing—and to their consequent most important contribution to the exigencies of the state we would do so, not with a view of exciting unworthy motives for concession, but in honest hope of suggesting legitimate and rational grounds of constitutional relief.

" And deeply, indeed, should we lament, if these very recommendations should serve only to hold us out as the objects of harsh suspicion at home, or of daring attempts upon our allegiance from abroad.

" May we, then, with hearts deeply interested in the fate of this our humble supplication, presume to appeal to your Royal benignity and constitutional wisdom, on behalf of a very numerous, industrious, affectionate, and faithful body of the people—the Roman Catholics of Ireland.

" And to pray, that your Royal Highness may be graciously pleased to recommend it the parliament of the United Kingdom, to take into their favourable consideration, the whole of our condition, our numbers, our services, our merits, and our sufferings.

" And as we are conscious of the purity of our motives, and the integrity of our principles, we have been emboldened thus to submit to your Royal Highness, with profound respect, the full extent of our wishes and our hopes. And we therefore humbly pray to be restored to the rights and privileges of the constitution of our country—to be freed from all penal and disabling laws in force against us, on account of our religious faith—and that we may thereby become more worthy, as well as more capable, of promoting the service of the crown, and the substantial interests of this great empire, now committed to the unrestricted wisdom of your Royal Highness, &c. &c. &c."

Petitions to both Houses of Parliament of a similar import were agreed to at the same time.

At a most numerous and highly respectable meeting of the Electors of Bristol, resident in the Metropolis, held at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, in the Strand, on Thursday, the 27th day of February, 1812, pursuant to public advertisement.

JOHN NOBLE, esq. in the Chair.

It was Resolved, That Mr. Baillie having publicly signified his intention to decline offering himself again to represent the City of Bristol in Parliament, it is expedient that the electors should take into their immediate consideration who is a fit person to succeed Mr. Baillie in the important trust which he is about to relinquish.

That the duties of a representative in the Commons house of Parliament, at all times involve the dearest interests of Englishmen; but that the present eventful crisis of public affairs more than ever renders the character and capacity of their representatives an object of the last importance and solicitude to the electors of the united kingdom.

That the conduct of Sir Samuel Romilly in Parliament has evinced an uniform and manly independence, and that he has on all occasions discharged his senatorial duties with eminent ability and the most unblemished integrity.

That it peculiarly behoves great cities, and other populous towns which delegate members to the house of Commons, to set a laudable example to other parts of the empire, by the pure and unbought election of upright and able men; and that in the choice of their representatives it is of essential consequence to reward, with their approbation, those distinguished persons whose past conduct can furnish a pledge of future integrity, firmness, and ability.

That the electors of Bristol resident in London do warmly co-operate with their fellow electors of the city of Bristol, in supporting Sir Samuel Romilly as a fit person to be chosen on the next vacancy to represent them in parliament; by whose election the present meeting are deeply convinced the electors would conduce to their own honor, promote their best interests, and give a valuable stimulus to exertion and integrity in public men.

That deeply impressed with the importance of the object of this meeting, we will individually exert ourselves, by every means in our power, to secure the election of Sir Samuel Romilly.

The thanks of the meeting were then voted to the Chairman.

[March.]

At a Meeting of the Directors of the Chamber of Commerce and Manufacturers of Glasgow, held on the 14th of February, 1812,

KIRKMAN FINLAY, Esq. in the chair :

The Committee appointed at a former meeting, presented their Report on the subject of the East India Company's Charter; which, having been read and approved of,

It was unanimously Resolved,

1. That, by the Act 33d of his present Majesty, c. 52, the entire right of Commerce and Navigation, in the seas and to the territories between the Cape of Good Hope and the Straits of Magellan, is vested in the Company; but if not renewed, this exclusive right will terminate on 1st of March, 1814, "after which they will remain a Corporation, and may continue the trade on the same footing as other British Subjects."

2. That, by the Act 37th of the same reign, c. 57, the privilege of trading to those countries, although denied to British subjects, is permitted to foreign nations in amity with his Majesty.

3. That the private trade which British merchants were allowed to prosecute by the regulations of 1793, as an experiment of its future policy, is confined to the actual possessions of the Company: limited to their own ships, under all the disadvantages of uncertainty, expense, and delay; restricted both in the kinds and quantities of the outward and homeward bound cargoes; removed from the control of the proprietors, and conducted in a manner which seems to have been intended to insure failure of success; but that the increase of this trade, under the pressure of all these restraints, proves, beyond a doubt, the extent which it would have attained, had it been left to its free and natural operation.

4. That the Merchants of the United States of America, availing themselves of the liberty which they have been allowed, to enjoy at the expense of our own people, have prosecuted the East Indian trade in a manner, and to a degree which has enriched the individuals, increased the national wealth, and supplied, as far as was possible, not only the Continent of Europe, but South America, the West Indies, Turkey, the Foreign ports of the Mediterranean, and even Malta, with East India commodities; thus, by their industry, economy, and dispatch, compelling

the Company to shrink from the competition; employing British capital in a trade which the laws of this country prevent its own subjects from using directly themselves; and possessing the incalculable advantage of contesting, not with the skill and resources of British merchants, but with the prodigality and negligence of a joint stock company.

5. That the actual operation of the monopoly thus appears to be, directed not merely against British subjects, but in favour of foreign nations.

6. That no satisfactory reason can be assigned against opening the trade to China, because the supposed delicacy of allowing a general interference with that people, is completely removed by the success which has attended the American traffic; and the same means which have enabled the Company to manage their affairs in China, may be established under the authority of government; because the ideal difficulty of the collection of taxes, in the event of the trade being divided, is fully obviated by the known safety by which the duties are levied on articles of West Indian and American produce; and because the imagined hardship of depriving the Company of the only lucrative branch of their monopoly, will be alleviated by the wealth, influence, knowledge, and experience, which, in their united capacity, they will still be enabled to oppose to the unassisted efforts of private merchants.

7. That the natural effect of throwing open the Charter will be, to excite a fair emulation; to bring all the produce of the East to its proper level in this country; to enable our manufacturers to exert their skill and industry with advantage, to produce new sources of trade; and thus to give full employment to the operative classes of the community.

8. That the system of confining the East Indian trade to the port of London is unnecessary, unjust, and impolitic: unnecessary, because the duties may be collected with equal care, and less loss, by pilferage in the out-ports; unjust, because every mercantile place in the United Kingdom is entitled to the same privileges; and impolitic, because the superior economy and dispatch which prevail in the out-ports, are requisite to secure an equality in competition with foreign nations.

9. That the very existence of a beneficial prosecution of the East Indian trade by